

the author passes to the consideration of permanent stricture and recommends (as indeed do all writers on the subject), that in simple cases gradual interrupted dilatation should first be tried, and should this not succeed, continuous dilatation should be substituted. As to what he does in non-dilatable cases unaccompanied by retention, one is left in the dark.

We fail to find any mention of internal or external urethrotomy or indeed of rapid dilatation or divulsion. However, it is but just to say that the author disavows all intention of going into the question of complicated stricture, for he says: "It would be waste of time and labor, for I feel sure that those for whom my book is intended (presumably general practitioners) would have neither time, patience, inclination nor instruments to undertake the cure of such cases."

As to the new and simple instruments; one is a tube to be used where there is any difficulty in entering the stricture. It protects the urethral walls and stretches out the face of the contraction in the same way as does Benique's tube from which it however differs in having several enclosed tubes, through each of which a filiform bougie may be passed. Another new instrument is a form of catheter devised to take the place of the bougie olivaire to which the author seems to object.

In drawing attention again to the importance of gentleness in urethral instrumentation, if for nothing else, The author will deserve thanks not only from the class for which it is written, but also from the patients themselves, and we cordially endorse the following remarks: "Any surgeon who shows the slightest disposition to resort to force in order to pass an instrument utterly into the bladder must be either grossly ignorant or reckless.

F. SWINFORD EDWARDS.

THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE KIDNEY AMENABLE TO DIRECT INTERFERENCE. By W. BRUCE CLARK, M.A., M.B., Oxon., F.R.C.S., Assistant Surgeon to and Senior Demonstrator of Anatomy and Operative Surgery at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, etc., etc. (Illustrated). London: H. K. Lewis, 136 Gower Street, W. C., 1886. 8vo., pp. 176.

The substance of this work constituted the essay to which the coveted and well-known "Jacksonian prize" of the Royal College of Surgeons of England was awarded in 1886. This essay has been revised, enlarged and brought up to date.

Mr. Bruce Clarke has a plain, straightforward style and a sense of

order and method which make the plan and arrangement of his book visible almost as soon as it is opened. With these characteristics it is natural that the illustrations are mostly diagrams or semi-diagrams. They are none the less useful.

The practitioner will therefore find this book a convenient one from which to get an insight into the present state of renal surgery without having to puzzle or weary his brains too much with masses of facts, most of which would never be likely to have much significance to anyone but a specialist.

The normal anatomy of the kidney is first dealt with, then its deformities, next, in the following order: Injuries, new growths, parasites, hydronephrosis, calculus, tubercular pyelitis and abscess from other causes, perinephritis, hæmaturia, pyuria, operations and methods by which one ureter can be temporarily occluded. In conclusion, there are a bibliography and an index. The work naturally contains a large number of references, which are for the most part useful and judicious. Occasionally, however, they are not perfectly accurate; for instance, our own journal is not correctly described at page 19, and the same annotations wherein this misdescription occurs, contains an example of a kind of "rough and ready" mode of expression into which Mr. Bruce Clarke too often allows himself to fall, a mode of expression not in keeping with the character of a systematic surgical monograph or treatise. Another fault similar in origin, though not the same in nature, occurs in the first foot-note on page 79.

But these blemishes do not seriously affect the value of the book, and may be got rid of with a little care in a future edition.

The book is well printed, neatly bound and of convenient size.

C. B. KEETLEY.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SAMUEL D. GROSS, M.D., D.C.L. Oxon., LL. D., Cantab., Edin., Jeff. Coll., Univ. Pa., Emeritus Professor of Surgery in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. With sketches of his Contemporaries. Edited by his sons, SAMUEL W. GROSS, M.D., and A. HALLER GROSS. In two volumes, 8vo., cloth, Roxburgh binding. Philadelphia, George Barrie, Publisher, 1887.

Among the surgeons of America at the time of his retirement from the active duties of a lecturer on surgery, Dr. Gross stood *facile princeps*. For many years he had been a leader in every movement for the advancement of the profession, which he so highly honored. His commanding figure, noble features, magnificent presence and genial manners, together with abundant resources of wit and learning, rendered